

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowance of Claims 13-29.

Claim Objections Under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 (c)

The Examiner objected to claims 2-12, 14-22 and 24-29 as failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant has amended these claims to manipulate the methods of the claimed invention from which the claims respectively depend and to further define the claimed methods. The amendment of Claims 14-22 and 24-29 was not made for any prior art reason. No new matter is believed to have been added by the amendment of these claims, as the claims are believed to be supported by the application as originally filed. Accordingly, Applicant believes the objection to claims 2-12, 14-22 and 24-29 is overcome.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wiklof et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,625,399).

In response, Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize "determining a dot history pattern based on a plurality of selected thermal elements". To this end, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to Fig. 11 (e.g., sites A_x to A_z), along with all written support in the Specification as filed (e.g., see paragraph 87 et al.). Wiklof fails to teach at least "selecting a plurality of thermal elements to make up a thermal element group" and "determining a dot history pattern, the dot history pattern based on the selected thermal element group made up of the plurality of thermal elements." Accordingly, Wiklof does not teach, nor does it suggest, all of the claim elements of the claimed method. Thus, the rejection of Claim 1 is believed to be overcome.

Claims 2-12 depend from, and therefore include all recitations, Claim 1. Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Thus, Claims 2-12, which have also been amended to overcome the objection stated above, are believed to be allowable.

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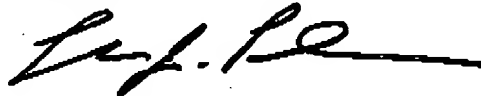
Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections to Claims 1-12, withdrawal of the objections to Claims 2-12, 14-22 and 24-29, and allowance of all claims in the instant application.

No fee or petition is believed due. In the event that a fee or petition is due, authorization is given here to charge Deposit Account No. 23-2053 in the appropriate amount for such fee or petition.

The Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's attorney in the event that such communication would facilitate allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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